572.

Justice, Minister of

October 25th, 1917

The Honourable the Minister of Justice,

Ottawa.

Sir:

Will you allow me to lay before you on behalf of the Senate of the University of Toronto a statement in support of applications which I understand have been made to you by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario that students who are engaged in the study of medicine in the universities and in the study of dental surgery in the Royal College of Dental Surgeons may be exempted from the ordinary draft under the terms of the Militia Act and be enlisted in special medical or dental reserve corps respectively in which they would be liable to be called whenever the military authorities wish to use their special training ?

The Ontario Medical Council realises that the drain on the medical profession for war purposes has been and is likely to continue to be so serious that should the war not come to an end soon the supply of graduates in medicine will need to be as large as possible. The Hospitals also are feeling the strain severely. In these circumstances the University Senate is glad to support the proposal made by the Secretary of the Ontario Medical Council.

A similar situation exists with regard to the dental profession and inasmuch as the Royal College of Dental Surgeons is in the closest affiliation with the University of Toronto and its students

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are registered as undergraduates of this University the Senate likewise supports the application made by the Royal College of Dental Surgeons.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Honourable the Minister of Militia.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 30th, 1918

The Honourable the Minister of Justice,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

The Secretary of the Joint Committee of Technical Organisations has forwarded to me a copy of a letter which he has sent to you stating that owing to the operation of the Military Service Act there is every likelihood of a great depletion occurring in the available number of trained technical men of university grade to carry on the necessary industrial work even in connection with the war. While I do not consider it to be a part of my duty to make any recommendation to you from the University with regard to such a question as this I may perhaps be allowed to state that I quite agree with the Joint Committee of Technical Organisations with regard to the facts that they have laid before you.

I may state that in the University of Toronto our attendance which was before the war between six and seven hundred students has fallen this year to one hundred and fifty and that there are very few in the final years in the Faculty of Applied Science. If this continues the result will be that hardly any qualified men in the various departments of engineering will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Premier of the Province, Sir William Hearst, has issued a statement to the schools of the Province urging that young men should turn towards the universities and prepare themselves for the various

professions before they come of military age. Whether any further steps can be taken or not I do not know, but I have no doubt that we are to face a situation owing to the large voluntary enlistment that has taken place from our universities in which we will lack a supply of young engineers.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

W. E. WISMER,
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

ROYAL BANK BUILDING

AT LONDON, ONTARIO, November 23, 1917.

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED ON LETTERS
SENT TO ABOVE ADDRESS

W/W.

Sir Robert Falconer,
Presidents Office,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Many thanks for your letter of the 21st instant in regard to the Ontario Agricultural students.

I am forwarding a copy of the same on to His Honour Judge L.M. Hayes, with the suggestion that if it would be possible to secure the enlistment of the students as a whole, that it would be well to grant them a conditional exemption along the lines laid down by you.

With many thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. Wismer.

Deputy Registrar under Military Service Act.